

~~4. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any preceding,] Claim 1 wherein said step of selecting said region comprises an observer selecting a region of the object.~~

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5. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 3,] Claim 1 wherein said step of selecting said region comprises selecting a region of said video frame according to the position of an object relative to at least one other object.

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6. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any preceding claim,] Claim 1 wherein said step of selecting said region comprises selecting a region of said video frame defining an active entity.

7. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any preceding claim,] Claim 1 wherein said step of dividing said video image into a plurality of regions comprises dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane.

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8. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any preceding claim] Claim 1 further comprising;
following said step of selecting at least a predetermined one of said plurality of regions, de-emphasizing remaining regions of said display video image.

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9. The method as claimed in [any of Claims 9 to 11] Claim 9 further comprising;
artificially generating each remaining region of the video image.

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10. (Amended) The method as claimed in [any preceding claim,] Claim 9 wherein said step of generating video data comprises generating a sequence of video frames, and said step of displaying said display video image comprises displaying a sequence of video frames.

18. (Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 16 [or Claim 17,] wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region defining a foreground object.

19. (Amended) The system as claimed in [any of Claims 16 to 18,] Claim 16 wherein said means for selecting are arranged such that an observer can select a region of the monitored object.

20. (Amended) The system as claimed in [any of Claims 16 to 18,] Claim 16 wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region of said video frame according to the position of an object relative to at least one other object.

21. (Amended) The system as claimed in [any of Claims 16 to 20,] Claim 16 wherein said means for selecting are arranged to select a region of said video frame defining an active entity.

22. (Amended) The system as claimed in [any of Claims 16 to 21,] Claim 16 wherein said circuitry for dividing said video image into a plurality of regions is arranged for dividing said video image into a plurality of regions each defining a focal plane.

24. (Amended) The system as claimed in [any of Claims 16 to 23] Claim 24 further comprising; circuitry for de-emphasizing remaining regions of said display video image.

29. (Amended) The method as claimed in Claim [28,] 24 wherein the circuitry for generating video data comprises a video camera for monitoring an object to produce one or more video frames and the display is capable of displaying said video frame such that remaining regions of the display video image are less sharp in accordance with the relative distance between said respective portion of said object and said video camera.